



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

📰 ✨ THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: NEWS THAT MATTERS ✨ 📰

As your City Manager, I'm inviting you to take a rare, behind-the-scenes look at how Punta Gorda delivers the services you count on every day. Challenge yourself by committing to Harborside Hometown University—our immersive, eight-week civic academy—and find out what it really takes to run a city that values excellence, accountability, and community.

Harborside Hometown University is free to Punta Gorda residents, ages 18 and up. The format is simple and highly interactive: attend at least eight of ten sessions to graduate. Over the course of eight weeks between January and April, you'll meet the professionals who plan, build, protect, and maintain our city. Through presentations, facility walk-throughs, and live demonstrations, you'll see how we manage water quality, maintain streets and parks, recruit and train first responders, steward public records, safeguard finances, and communicate during everyday operations and emergencies alike.

Senior staff from across the organization lead the sessions. You'll hear from the City Manager's Office (including City Council, Legal, Communications, Information Technology, and Human Resources) and learn how policy becomes action. The City Clerk will explain records, meetings, and public access. Finance will demystify budgeting, procurement, billing, and collections. Fire and Police will cover public safety,

prevention, training, and community policing. Public Works will open the doors to engineering, canal maintenance, right-of-way, sanitation, facilities, and our parks and grounds. Urban Design will walk you through building, planning, zoning, and code compliance. Utilities will show how water is produced, distributed, and treated—end to end. You'll also gain regional perspective with a session on the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center and its role in community preparedness.

We schedule for convenience and depth. Bi-weekly daytime sessions run on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Public Works campus, 3130 Cooper Street. Fire and Police host evening sessions from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration for the 2026 Academy opened October 1, 2025; spaces are limited, and this program fills quickly because it offers real, practical value for anyone who cares about Punta Gorda's future.

As Program Coordinator Laurel Adelmund explains, "The Punta Gorda Citizens Academy is more than a program—it's an investment in our community. By giving residents a firsthand look at city operations and leadership, it empowers citizens to be informed, engaged, and active participants in shaping the future of our city."

To learn more or to register, contact Laurel Adelmund at (941) 575-5002 or email ladelmund@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com. If you've ever wondered how a budget line turns into a paved road, what it takes to staff a fire engine at 3 a.m., or how we coordinate storm response across departments, this academy is for you. Graduates consistently tell us they leave better informed, more engaged, and ready to lead—whether that means volunteering, serving on a board, or simply being a trusted voice in the neighborhood.

And while you're marking your calendar, circle one more date that brings our community together: Fall Festival 2025. The City of Punta Gorda and the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library are proud to co-host this free, family-friendly celebration on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the PG Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve Street. Expect food, games, trick-or-treating, a costume contest, and plenty of smiles—no admission required.

Questions? Email FallFest@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com. It's a wicked good time to connect with neighbors, support our library, and celebrate the spirit that makes Punta Gorda home.



DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #42 FOR WEEK October 12 - October 17, 2025 District One is twelve counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, and Sarasota Click on the link below for updates from FDOT road watch. [fdot-district-one-roadwatch.pdf](https://www.fdot.com/district-one-roadwatch.pdf)



The City of Punta Gorda has implemented **Alert Punta Gorda**, an emergency public notification system. This system allows the City of Punta Gorda to contact the entire community or to target specific areas in case of an emergency or for urgent situations that require the public's immediate attention such as natural disasters (hurricane

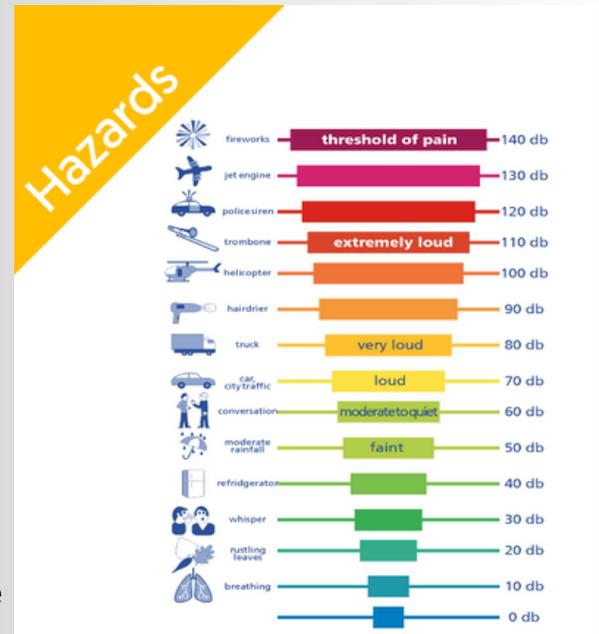
warnings or fires), man-made disasters (chemical spills or gas leaks), search and rescue situations (missing children or endangered adults), sexual offender alerts, etc. Users can choose how they want to receive time-sensitive alerts. You can choose to receive alerts on your home or business phone, mobile phone, email, text message, or more based on your settings. Need to sign up for a new Alert Punta Gorda account and choose your alert settings? **Sign Up for Alert Punta Gorda**. Already have an account and need to make changes or update your information? Log In to Alert Punta Gorda <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/public-safety/alert-punta-gorda>

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PROTECT YOUR HEARING MONTH

Whether you are at work, or working at home, make sure you are protecting your hearing as part of your overall health and safety habits. Hearing damage and loss is cumulative and mostly irreversible. So find and use the best hearing protection that works for you and your environment.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HEARING.

1. Avoid or limit exposure to any noise above 90 db
2. Wear proper fitting hearing protection suited for the purpose or environment.
3. Take breaks when you can
4. When using in-ear or over-ear headphones limit the volume and duration
5. Get annual or regular hearing checkups to stay aware of any progressive hearing loss



Visit

Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St., for events visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>

Fishermen's Village for events visit <https://www.fishville.com/events/>

Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce for events visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce for events visit <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>

Military Heritage Museum for events visit [Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum](#)

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for events visit <https://pgica.org/>.

The Visual Arts Center for events visit [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](https://visualartcenter.org)

The Blanchard House for upcoming events visit www.theblanchardhouse.org

United Way - <https://www.unitedwayccfl.org/united4youth>

SAVE THE DATES - EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

October

October 11
8 am - 1 pm

**Farmers Market Downtown
Punta Gorda**
Every Saturday

SPONSORED BY THE CELTIC RAY
AND THE PGI CAR CLUB
PARK IN THE EMPTY LOT ACROSS
NESBIT FROM THE RAY



CELTIC RAY CAR SHOW
2ND THURSDAY EVERY MONTH-2-
5PM ALL MAKES AND MODELS

October 11
8 am - 12 pm
Every Saturday

THE CELTIC RAY MARKET
EVERY SATURDAY!
8AM-12PM [ISH]

The Market will be held in the empty lot across from the Pub on Nesbit Street. Parking will still be available to our patrons in our parking lot by the pub and any other nearby streets.

THE OUTSIDE BAR AT PUB WILL BE OPEN AT 9AM FOR

- BACON, EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- SAUSAGE, EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- SAUSAGE GRAVY PASTY-

-BREAKFAST CHIPS & SAUSAGE GRAVY-

-MIMOSAS- BLOODY MARYS- IRISH COFFEE- IRISH COFFEE-

CELTRAY.NET

October 13

Columbus Day

October 18 & 25
Halloween Haunted Trails
Cedar Point Environment
Park
<https://www.checflorida.org/halloween-at-cedar-point>

October 20
9 am

**City County Pre-
Agenda**
Laishley
Community Room

October 22
9 am

Council Meeting
Laishley Community
Room

October 23
5 pm - 7 pm

**City Council
Workshop**
Laishley
Community Room

October 25
1 pm - 4 pm
**Neighborhood Fall
Festival**
Shreve Street

November

November 8
11 am - 5 pm
Moose Lodge
#2121 Port
Charlotte

November 9
Veterans Car Show
at the Wall
9 am 1 pm
Charlotte County
Justice Center
\$10 Donation

November 11

VETERANS DAY
Honoring All Who Served
Nov. 11



City Government Offices Closed

UPCOMING EVENTS



FRIDAY, OCT. 10TH 6:00PM

COASTAL ISLES WINE BAR

TICKET \$10

ENJOY AN EVENING OF LAUGHS AS SEETHA THE COMIC HOSTS A GAME SHOW WHERE YOU ARE THE PARTICIPANTS!

www.coastaliseswinebar.com



DIANA'S CUTTING EDGE SALON & BOUTIQUE HALLOWEEN PARTY

1133 BAL HARBOR BLVD
OCTOBER 31ST, 2025 FROM 5PM TO 8PM
TRUNK OR TREAT IN THE PARKING LOT
FOOD MUSIC & FUN - MUSIC BY THE SALTY CRACKERS

Cedar Point Environmental Park

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED TRAILS

18, 25 OCT. | 6-9 PM

SATURDAY NIGHTS
You are invited to a special night when the ghosts and monsters dance happily in the Park

\$10 PER TICKET EARLY BIRD \$8 UNDER AGE 6 FREE

2300 Placida Road, Englewood FL 34224
www.credflorida.org/halloween-at-cedar-point

<https://tinyurl.com/yeyjabfx>

13 Years of Terror!
5000sf Legendary Haunted House

At The Celtic Ray

HAUNTING ON THE HARBOR Haunted House

At The Celtic Ray

OCT 24 - 25 - 26 - 31 - NOV 01

Hours- 7pm to 11pm all nights
except Oct 26- 7pm to 10pm

General Admission - \$15.00
Limited Fast Pass each night- \$25.00

HAUNTED HOUSE TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
www.PuntaGordaHaunting.com

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

Mariners and Car Club members anticipate an evening of spirited music by the Salty Cracker, classic cars & a parade of ghosts and goblins. Wear something ghousty yourselves (optional). Bring a chair, BYOB, and a treat. Diana's Cutting Edge is collecting donations and your bring it to the event. See you there!

OCTOBER 31 5-8 PM

Bal Harbor & Agui Estu Blvd parking lot

Salty Cracker's Band

Sip & Savor

Beyond Charities, a community service organization of the POICA, is excited to announce new Fall fundraising events you will NOT want to miss!

Join us for ONE or BOTH of these interactive culinary evenings benefiting the Punta River Wildlife Center and the Charlotte CARE Center (formerly known as the Humane Coalition).

Tickets: \$95.00 each or \$175.00 for both events
Attendance is limited to 50 people per event. Doors open at 5:45 PM.

<p>Beer & Savor: A Taste of Ireland at the Celtic Ray</p> <p>DATE: Saturday, October 11, 2025 TIME: 6-8 PM LOCATION: 101 East Main Street, Punta Gorda, FL</p>	<p>Wines from Around the World at Coastal Isles Wine Bar</p> <p>DATE: Saturday, November 8, 2025 TIME: 6-8 PM LOCATION: 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., Suite 1050, Punta Gorda, FL</p>
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The Sip & Savor events will feature:

- Four (4) tasting pours per person paired with thoughtfully selected small bites.
- A tasting presentation by knowledgeable culinary experts.
- Raffle tickets, a \$100 cash raffle, and silent auction items.
- LIVE entertainment by the Jan-Eric, a local acoustic guitar duo.
- Opportunity to purchase additional food and drinks (at your own expense) after the presentation.

Get Your Tickets Today!

Scan the QR code with your phone | Visit our website at POICAA.org/Beyond_Ourselves

NOTE: The event at the Celtic Ray will be held in the upstairs bar space and is only accessible by stairs.

Veteran's Car Show at the WALL in Punta Gorda

November 9th 9am - 1pm \$10 Donation

Presented By Florida West Coast Car Club

- Judges Choice Trophies
- Music by Tommy Tunes
- Food Vendor
- Short Memorial Ceremony

CCVC provides Veteran assistance in coordination of Veteran activities, bases to take Veterans to VA facilities, Rides. Funds provide money assistance to needy Veterans, promote County Veteran Parks, and linked to Charlotte County Government (Commissioner Stephen R. Deutch).

Veteran Family Fun Day

November 8, 2025
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Moose Lodge #2121
3462 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte

*** SPONSORS ***

<p>Presenting Sponsor... \$5,000 Five vendor space inside or outside plus 200 sq. ft. display location Catered food and beverage table Catering table and chairs Decorative signage for all event materials Responsibility of the event</p>	<p>Sponsor... \$3,000 Five vendor space inside or outside Catered food and beverage table Catering table and chairs Decorative signage for all event materials Responsibility of the event</p>	<p>Sponsor... \$1,000 Five vendor space inside or outside Catered food and beverage table Catering table and chairs Decorative signage for all event materials Responsibility of the event</p>	<p>Drove of Honor... \$200 Five vendor space inside or outside Catered food and beverage table Catering table and chairs Decorative signage for all event materials Responsibility of the event</p>
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Sponsorship Deadline: Oct. 1st

LEMONT BAY
101 East Riva, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: (888) 476-3072

TOY DRIVE

Monday December 1, 2025 9am-7pm

FOR THE NEEDY AT THE SUBURBAN CHILDREN OF PUNTA GORDA

Free Admission with Toy Donation per Person

300 Value

Complimentary Appetizers, House Wine, and Beer
101 East Riva, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(888) 476-3072

Can YOU help us reach our goal?



It's been our goal from the beginning to obtain a Huey to be placed at the Vietnam Wall of South West Florida in Veterans Park

The Huey was one of the most iconic and significant helicopters of the Vietnam War. Its impact was profound on both military operations and the overall conduct of the war.

- Revolutionized Air Mobility (Air Cavalry)
- Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)
- Firepower and Gunships
- Symbol of the War
- Scale of Use

Over 7,000 Huey's were deployed during the war. More than 3,000 were destroyed, showing how widely and heavily they were used. The Huey changed how wars were fought, especially in tough environments like Vietnam. It brought speed, flexibility, and firepower to the battlefield, saved thousands of lives through medevac missions, and became a powerful symbol of both innovation and the brutal reality of the Vietnam War.

VIETNAM WALL OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

A community project in conjunction with



Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida is a 501 (c)(3) Florida nonprofit corporation CH48445
100 Nesbit Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Tel: 941.268.4245



Please Donate Today

Veterans Day Weekend 2025, Laishley Park



SPONSOR TO HONOR

Honour your American or Canadian veterans and first responders by sponsoring this annual commemorative event. You can also purchase a flag, tagged with your veteran's or first responder's name, to be displayed on the field for \$40 – and yours to keep after the event.



Email: www.puntagordarotary.org/hfoh/

Call: 941-646-8820

Facebook: www.Facebook/HFOHPG

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Old Glory Sponsor – \$5,000

Row of 10 flags, 10 VIP seats at the ceremony, logo on field, full-page program ad, and recognition in all event promotions, social media, and websites.

Stars & Stripes Sponsor – \$2,500

8 flags, 6 VIP seats, logo on field, half-page ad, and recognition in event promotions, social media, and websites.

Freedom Sponsor – \$1,000

6 flags, 4 VIP seats, logo on field, quarter-page ad, and recognition in event promotions, social media, and websites.

Independence Sponsor – \$500

4 flags, logo on field, and recognition in event promotions, social media, and websites.

Liberty Sponsor – \$250

3 flags and recognition on the field and in promotional materials.

Patriot Sponsor – \$150

2 flags and recognition on the field. Let me know if you'd like a matching visual layout for a flyer or sponsorship form.



SPONSOR FORM

Company Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Sponsor Level: _____

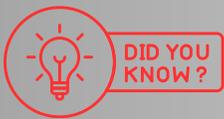
Level: _____ **Amount:** _____

PAYBYCHECK TO:

Check#: _____

Mail to:

The Punta Gorda Rotary Charity & Education Foundation
PO Box 511132
Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1132



BILLING & COLLECTIONS



Want to receive your billing statement by email every month?

Want to sign-up for auto-pay?

Need to update your mailing address or phone number?

THERE'S A FORM FOR THAT!

Sold your property?

Had a leak and want to see if it qualifies for an adjustment?

Bought a new home?

Visit Our Webpage

<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/billing-collections>

SCAN QR CODE



The screenshot shows the Punta Gorda website's "Billing & Collections" forms page. The header includes the city logo, weather (68° Partly Cloudy), and navigation links. The main content area is titled "FORMS" and lists various forms for residential and commercial use. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with options like "Account Ownership", "Customer Water Use Portal", "Forms", "Location of Utility Billing Payment Drop Box", "Paperless Billing & Payments", "Rate Calculator", and "Water & Wastewater Rates".

Government » Billing & Collections »

FORMS

Font Size: [+] [-] [+] Share & Bookmark Feedback [x] Print

Residential

- **Change of Ownership:** Use this form to change the owner on a residential property.
- **Change of Address:** Use this form to change the billing address on the account.
- **Owner Adjustment Request:** This form is to request an adjustment for any leaks that may be eligible for adjustment.
- **E-Billing:** Use this form to sign up to receive your monthly bills through email.
- **Bank Draft Authorization:** Use this form to sign up for automatic payments to be deducted from your bank account.
- **Change Current Bank Draft:** This form is for changing your current auto draft information that is already on file.

Commercial/Large Development

- **Change of Tenant Commercial/ Residential Units:** Use this form to change the tenant on a commercial or residential property.
- **Water & Sewer Availability:** Use this online form to inquire about water and sewer availability. A customized response may take several days due to high volume of requests.
- **Temporary Hydrant Meter Installation Agreement:** Request a temporary Fire Hydrant Meter to be installed at your site.

Please e-mail your form to pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com or you may mail the form back to us at
**126 Harvey St.
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950**

SAVE THE DATE

SECOND ANNUAL

NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

**TRICK OR
TREATING**

**FAMILY
GAMES**

**COSTUME
CONTEST**

OCTOBER 25, 2025

1:00P.M. - 4:00P.M.

**PUNTA GORDA
CHARLOTTE LIBRARY
401 SHREVE STREET**

**JOIN US AS COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS COME TO LIFE!
PRESENTED BY:**



Punta Gorda



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Libraries & History**





NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL

SAT, OCT 25, 2025

PUNTA GORDA CHARLOTTE LIBRARY

1:00 - 4:00 PM

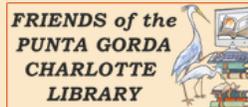
COUNTDOWN TO FALL FEST ~ 16 DAYS TO GO!

No reason to fear, our Fright & Delight sponsors are here!

THE FIRM
ADVERTISING AGENCY

JARRETT
Ford
of Charlotte County

Charged with gratitude for our Punta Gorda Powerhouse & Custom sponsors!



**Interested in sponsoring the fun? Have a nonprofit for trick or treating?
Want to know how you can help?**

For more information contact:

Ph: 941-575-3309

FallFest@cityofpuntagordafl.com

WELCOME OUR NEWEST TRICK OR TREAT PARTNERS!



**CHARLOTTE DESOTO
BUILDING INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION**



TEAM PUNTA GORDA



CHARLOTTE CHORALE



**Follow us on Facebook & the City website for updates!
Facebook - City of Punta Gorda Fall Fest - City of Punta Gorda**



GOVERNMENT SERVICES

City Clerk

Signature Update – Did you know your signature can change significantly over the years? Stop by the Supervisor of Elections' Office (226 Taylor Street, Unit 120, Punta Gorda, FL 33950) to update your signature.

Vote-by-mail and Over-the-counter Ballots – Vote-by-mail (VBM) are being mailed! VBM ballots are also available over the counter from the Supervisor of Elections Office during their normal hours of operation, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In order to receive a VBM ballot, you must have placed a new request with the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office [(941)833-5400; 226 Taylor Street] on or after January 1, 2025. The last day to request a VBM ballot is October 23, 2025.

Your Vote is More Powerful Than You Think.

In our standalone City elections, turnout is often low. This creates a unique opportunity for engaged residents like you. When fewer people vote, your single ballot carries much more weight and has a greater influence on the final outcome.

As of Thursday, October 9, election turnout to date is 659 of 15,400 voters. That represents just 4.28% of all eligible voters.

A small group of committed voters can truly steer the future of our city. Let's make sure that direction reflects our entire community. Don't miss your chance to have a major impact; be a voter!

Current Board and Committee Vacancies – If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please visit our online portal to [complete an online application](#). Unless otherwise noted, all boards meet in Council Chambers, which is currently located at the Laishley Community Room, 120 Laishley Court.

New Businesses – Are you thinking of opening a business in the City? You can learn more about filing for a City business tax receipt [on our website](#). Still have questions? Contact the City Clerk's Office via email businesstax@cityofpuntafordafl.com or call us at (941)575-3369. As part of our effort to promote economic development and vitality in our area, we offer the following list of new or transferred businesses within our community this week:

- Charlotte Harbor Construction: moved to 210 Wood Street
- Fink Vacation Rental: opened at 390 Belaire Court
- Joseph Moore Handyman: opened at 410 East Henry Street
- Megan MacDonald: moved to 2511 Vasco Street
- Renovation Nation: opened at 208 Tamiami Trail

Utilities

Administration & Watering Reminders



Got a leak? If you spot water or sewer issues after hours, give us a call at (941) 575-5070 or reach the Water Plant at (941) 639-2057.

We've updated the Utilities Story Map to include several water main upgrades and our plans for the elevated storage tank on Burnt Store Road. Please visit the Story Map and check back frequently for updates! <https://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/ratestory>



Watering schedules:

We all want green lawns, but Florida law says no watering between 10 am and 4 pm. To keep it fair, here's when you can water based on your house number.

Ends in 0 or 1	Mon & Thurs
Ends in 2 or 3	Tues & Fri
Ends in 4 or 5	Wed & Sat
Ends in 6 or 7	Thurs & Sun
Ends in 8 or 9	Fri & Tues

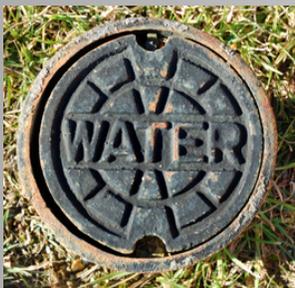
You can only water early mornings (12:01 am to 9:59 am) or evenings (4:01 pm to 11:59 pm).



New lawns: Feel free to water daily for the first 30 days.

Car washing and pressure washing: Go for it, just remember to use water smartly. A nozzle with a shut-off works best.

Meter Updates



We're in the middle of moving away from our old AMI (automatic meter) system. For now, all meters are being read manually by our contractor, Olameter. Meanwhile, our in-house tech team is testing a new maintenance app to track meter repairs and keep things running smoothly.

Fire Hydrant Maintenance & Flushing Program

Punta Gorda will be giving every fire hydrant in the city some much-needed care. Crews will be inspecting, painting, and flushing hydrants to make sure they're ready when firefighters need them, while also helping to keep our drinking water clean and fresh. During this work you may see water running from hydrants or notice brief discoloration at your tap, this is completely safe and should clear quickly. We'll keep the community updated with schedules and reminders so you'll know when hydrant work is planned in your area, all to ensure reliable fire protection and high-quality water for our neighborhoods.





Water Plant Snapshot

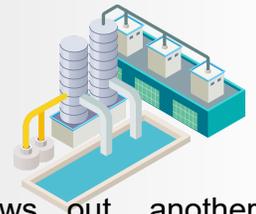
This past week, our water treatment plant delivered about 46.3 million gallons of clean drinking water to the community—an average of 6.6 million gallons every day. That’s enough to fill about 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools daily!

Our connection with the Peace River Authority continues to help balance supply, moving around 1,390 gallons per minute through both the new Interconnect and the Phase 1A Pipeline.

When it comes to rain, we’ve seen a big difference compared to last year. So far this October, we’ve only had 0.20 inches of rain, while last October brought 10.38 inches. The dry spell means we’re keeping a close eye on reservoir levels and water quality.

Speaking of the Shell Creek Reservoir, it’s currently sitting at 5.29 feet, which is close to average for this time of year. The record low for this date is 4.92 feet, and the record high is 6.36 feet. Over the last 59 years, the average level has been 5.49 feet, so we’re right in the normal range. For water hardness, we’re measuring 92 parts per million, or about 5.4 grains per gallon. If you have a water softener at home, that number helps you set it correctly. Our water is considered “hard,” which just means it naturally contains minerals like calcium and magnesium. These minerals can leave small white spots on faucets or glassware but don’t affect water safety.

We also monitor Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), which shows how many minerals are in the water. This week, the TDS averaged 250 parts per million, ranging from a low of 188 to a high of 430. The fifteen-year average for this time of year is 286, so we’re right in the normal zone. Overall, our water quality looks healthy and steady.



Wastewater Treatment

While clean water flows out, another hardworking team makes sure what flows back in is treated safely. This week, our Wastewater Treatment Plant handled about 18.06 million gallons, or 2.58 million gallons a day. Staff also attended training on new coarse bubble diffusers—equipment that helps mix and oxygenate water during treatment to make the process more efficient.

Our crews are also keeping the grounds looking sharp by mowing and trimming both the plant and remote station sites. The plant recorded 1.35 inches of rain this week, a little higher than what the treatment plant area received.

Wastewater Distribution

Out in the neighborhoods, our Water Distribution team has been busy keeping the system in top shape. The Cross Connection Control Program, required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, helps protect our drinking water by preventing contamination from backflow. The team continues reviewing and updating records to ensure all devices are properly installed and certified, and they’re adding updates to Chapter 17 of the city ordinance to strengthen protection standards.

Across the city’s 1,422 fire hydrants, crews completed maintenance and repairs on three this week. They also continued exercising valves—37 in total—and flushed 29 hydrants to keep the system fresh and clean.

As new homes are built, the team installed two new water meters this week and handled 13 service requests, including leak repairs and meter checks. They also repaired two line breaks due to aging infrastructure.

The team completed three fire flow tests to make sure our hydrants deliver strong pressure when needed. Although we're still reading meters manually while the AMI system is offline, our techs are testing a new maintenance app to make meter management smoother. Meanwhile, our contractor Olameter continues regular meter readings and service turn-ons and shut-offs.

That wraps up this week's snapshot of your utilities. Thanks for doing your part by reporting leaks, following watering schedules, and keeping an eye out in your neighborhood. Together, we help make sure Punta Gorda's water system stays reliable and ready for everyone.



Human Resources



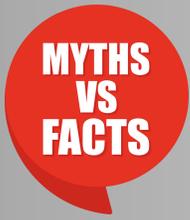
The City of Punta Gorda offers a very generous benefit package to include medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and an employee pension plan. If you are interested in a position listed below, submit an application on the Employment Opportunities | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)

- Benefits Coordinator, Human Resources
- Controller, Finance
- Evidence/Crime Scene Technician
- Facilities Maintenance Worker III, Facilities
- Public Works Project Engineer
- Maintenance Worker I, Right of Way
- Utilities Maintenance Worker III, Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Utility Engineer, Utilities
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator A

Upcoming Employment Testing

- **Police Officer Testing** — The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. A virtual testing process will take place in October 2025. Applications must be received by October 17, 2025. The written exam will be completed online between October 24 and October 31, 2025, and oral board exams will be conducted on November 20, 2025. The department is accepting applications from certified and non-certified candidates.
- **Internship Program** -The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring 2026 semester. Our program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Spots fill up quickly, and the selection process can be competitive; therefore, we encourage potential interns to apply as soon as possible.

To apply for employment or for more information, please visit www.pgpdjobs.com or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeeedvelopment@pgorda.us.



Urban Design

Zoning Myths and Facts: Series Wrap-Up

Over the past several weeks, the Zoning Myths and Facts series has explored some of the most common misconceptions about zoning. From clarifying that variances aren't automatic explaining how zoning helps preserve community character, each installment aimed to make the zoning process more transparent and easy to understand. Thank you for following along as we debunked the myths and highlighted the facts of zoning.

Code Compliance Reminder: Do You Need a Permit?

Before starting any project—big or small—it's important to check whether a permit is required. Permits help ensure work is safe, meets code, and protects property value. From building decks and sheds to installing fences or even certain repairs, skipping this step can lead to code violations and costly fixes later. When in doubt, reach out to confirm if a permit is needed before you begin.



Lot Mowing Program — The City started a new mowing cycle on October 8.

Tree City USA

Tree City USA – Growing a Legacy of Urban Canopy

Did you know that the City of Punta Gorda has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for 25 years? This achievement is due in large part to the commitment and dedication to urban forestry shown by former Planning Director Joan LeBeau. The Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors cities and towns across the nation that demonstrate a strong commitment to managing and expanding their public trees. To earn this designation, a community must meet four standards: Establish a tree board or department, adopt a community tree ordinance, invest at least \$2 per capita in urban forestry, and celebrate Arbor Day each year.

Punta Gorda was last officially recognized as a Tree City USA community in 2017. Since then, the City has not pursued re-certification due to the significant amount of staff time required and the series of major storms that have impacted our community, beginning with Hurricane Irma in 2017 and continuing through several subsequent

disasters. As a result, Punta Gorda has remained in a near-constant state of recovery, with staff efforts focused on rebuilding and restoring damaged infrastructure and landscapes.

Despite these challenges, the principles of the Tree City USA program remain deeply aligned with Punta Gorda's values and long-term planning goals. The designation promotes healthy urban forests, enhances property values, improves air and water quality, provides shade and beauty, and fosters civic pride. For a community like ours, known for its waterfront parks and walkable neighborhoods, maintaining a vibrant tree canopy is both an environmental and aesthetic investment in our quality of life.

With help from nonprofit partners such as TEAM Punta Gorda, the Historic Punta Gorda Civic Association, Punta Gorda in Bloom, Punta Gorda Garden Club, and Punta Gorda Isles Green Thumbs, the City continues to recover and plan for future resilience. Urban Design staff are exploring opportunities to re-engage with the Tree City USA program, as renewing this designation would reaffirm Punta Gorda's commitment to sustainability and preserving the natural character that makes our community such a special place to live.

Public Works

Administrative Office



Registration Opens October 1, 2025, for the Harborside Hometown University (Citizens Academy)!

Take the challenge and commit to this interactive 8-week program to discover what it takes to run the City of Punta Gorda.

Apply today to reserve your spot—we look forward to welcoming you to Harborside Hometown University (Citizens Academy). For more information, [Harborside Hometown University - \(Citizens Academy\) | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#), or contact Laurel Adelmund, Senior Executive Assistant of Public Works, at 941-575-5002.

Residents may report a problem using any of the following methods:

- Online: Report a Problem | City of Punta Gorda, FL [Report a Problem | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#)
- Email: pubworks@pgorda.us
- Phone: 941-575-5050

All report contacts are responded to the same day.

- **Canal Maintenance** – Canal Maintenance Crews filled 18 depressions at residences and poured 24 seawall panels.
- **Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement Projects** - The City has resumed duties for construction engineering inspections until the end of the project. Review took place of all worksites and updated from 7/30/2025 totals: BSI – 20 Worksites completed. PGI currently has four zones overall. Active open construction sites total 20, and overall, completed a total of 238 worksites. City seawall program has one open worksite at, and has completed a total of two worksites that were severely damaged.
- Mangrove Trimming has been completed.
- A Scope of Work (SOW) is being prepared and is expected to be issued before the end of the year.
- **City Seawall Program:** PGI has 21 worksites completed. There are currently 12 open staging sites with 234 overall completed sites in PGI. City seawall program has completed two worksites, and work will begin soon on the 3rd SOW in PGI [Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)

City Seawall Maintenance Program – Seawall yearly inspections are currently in progress in the NW2 section. The city seawall program has one work site completed, one active site with backfill being performed.

·Dockside Dredging – Property owners included on the Hurricane Ian Seawall Damage list are not permitted to conduct dockside dredging next to the damaged seawall until repairs are completed. Dredging in these areas could lead to further structural damage.

Dock Match Program – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has launched a program that helps connect boat owners in need of temporary docking with others who have available dock space. To learn more or participate, visit the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance website at boat2puntagorda.org and click on the Dock Match button.

Establishing sod after seawall replacement – Laying sod marks the final phase of seawall replacement construction. According to the City ordinance, property owners are responsible for maintaining and establishing the sod once it has been installed. The City will not reimburse water costs incurred during this process.

Seawall Canal Assessment - The City Seawall Program has awarded a construction extension contract for Marine Construction Group. Work will begin in May.

Stabilizing Erosion — This is a friendly reminder for property owners to routinely inspect the condition of any tarps or plastic covering eroded areas. Over time, exposure to sunlight can cause these materials to become brittle and break down. Using plastic during rain events can help protect the soil and minimize further erosion.

Vessel Speeds – Canal Maintenance is asking people to be mindful of the current situation in the canals with damaged seawalls. The city code states that vessels in the canals shall be slow at speed with minimum wake in the waterways within the city limits. The speed and operation in the Ponce Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Bass, and Snook Inlets are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.

Engineering

City Hall Roof: The roofing contractor continues making steady progress on the roof replacements at both City Hall and the Council Chambers. The crew is now in the process of installing the torch-down cap sheet, after which they will begin installing flashing over the parapet walls. Please exercise caution around the site and be aware that some areas may be temporarily closed due to ongoing work and equipment movement.

Tiger Dams: Public Works crews have completed installation of Earth anchors at the Herald Court parking garage, City Hall Annex and City Hall, Fire Station III, and Public Safety Building. The crew will be purchasing large stones to place around the Earth anchors to protect the tie-down hooks.

Gilchrest Park Bathrooms: The contractor has obtained the permits to begin the work on the bathrooms. They have already installed two new doors to gain easier access to both facilities.

Facilities/Parks and Grounds

- Repaired broken underground wires for the street light on East Olympia Avenue
- Started the repair of broken underground wires for street light on 41 South between Marion Avenue and Olympia Avenue.
- Continued to complete work orders on multiple city buildings.
- Continued building the desk and helped with the moving process for Urban Design and Code Compliance.
- Repaired irrigation on US 41.
- Repairs have been made to the entry gate at Ponce Park.
- Crews continue to install anchors at Public Safety for Tiger Dams.
- Crews started the core drilling project for walkway fencing at Gilchrist Park.

Right of Way

- Crews have begun the process of drilling along the Harborwalk to reinstall fencing.
- Lights along South Bound 41, Marion Ave have been replaced.
- Mowing crews continue to mow throughout the city.
- Crews removed dead trees at the corner of Shreve Street and Magdalena.

Sanitation

- Bagged Garbage – All loose trash must be placed inside a bag before putting the items inside the trash container. This will prevent any wind-blown litter during the collection process or any leaking from wet garbage. It also helps keep animals out of your garbage. As a reminder, please bag any pet waste and pet hair securely inside a bag to prevent debris from blowing onto the sanitation workers.



- **Sec. 10- 8. Disposition, lids on containers.** All garbage should be deposited daily in the cans or containers herein above required. Garbage cans and containers shall be kept tightly covered at all times except when it is necessary to lift the cover to deposit garbage or trash in the garbage can or container. Before being placed into a can or container, garbage and trash shall first be enclosed in a plastic or paper bag, cardboard box, or other container sufficient to inhibit any liquids from leaking. No garbage or trash shall be stored outside a residence or non-residential use except in an appropriate can or container. No garbage, trash, yard waste, or recyclables \ shall be buried in the City. No garbage or trash shall be placed in containers so as to extend above the top edge of the container sides. Yard waste no more than three (3) inches in diameter or four (4) feet in length shall either be disposed of pursuant to subsections (b) through (e) of \section 10-1.3 or be placed in yard waste cans or containers.

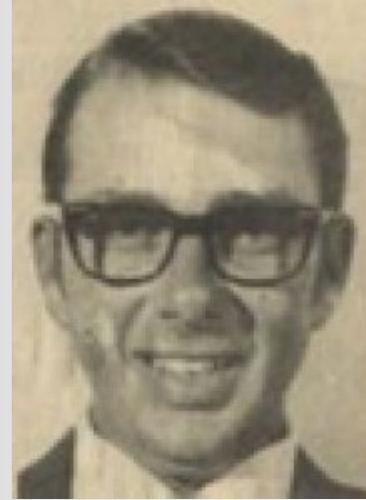
Trash, recycling, and yard waste must be placed curbside by 5:00 a.m., on the day of collection. Our sanitation workers strive to maintain a routine in which residents would be serviced roughly around the same time each collection day. However, sanitation encounters problems from time to time, such as trucks being down for service, staffing issues, or weather conditions. In order to maintain the best level of service, we kindly ask residents to have trash, yard waste, and recycling curbside either the night before or prior to 5:00 a.m., on the day of service. Staff are not always available to return the same day to collect a late put-out during these instances. Thank you for your continued cooperation. For more information regarding solid waste, [Chapter 10 SOLID WASTE, YARD WASTE, PUBLIC NUISANCES*](#) (punta-gorda.fl.us).



Police Department

Assistant Chief Richard L. Beecher

On today's date in 1978, Assistant Chief of Police Richard Beecher was killed in the line of duty while searching for an escaped murderer. During the search Assistant Chief Beecher flagged down a passing truck and stepped up on the running boards to speak with the driver. When he stepped down he was struck by a passing motorist and died from his injuries a few hours later. The men and women of the Punta Gorda Police Department continue to honor our fallen brother and remember the sacrifice he made to this community.



<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/officer-memorial-page>

Fire Department



This week, Chief Holden Gibbs and the Truck 1 crew are spending their afternoons at Sally Jones Elementary, teaching 5th graders lifesaving skills!

CPR

- Stop the Bleed techniques
- How to properly use an AED

We're proud to educate our youth with the knowledge and confidence to act in an emergency. It's never too early to learn how to save a life.



Thank you for reading!